POTASSIUM GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR RESEARCH ON IMPROVING SOIL POTASSIUM TESTING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

June 4, 2013 – Norcross, Georgia, U.S. – The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) is pleased to announce that the recipient of the Potassium Graduate Fellowship is Dr. Antonio P. Mallarino, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University (ISU). The winning proposal is dedicated to “Improving the Reliability of Soil Potassium Testing and Recommendations for Crops through Improved Knowledge of Relationships between Exchangeable and Non-Exchangeable Soil Potassium Pools.” This research will be the focus of Mr. Ryan R. Oltmans, Ph.D. Candidate, ISU. Co-Investigator for this program is Dr. Michael Thompson, Professor of Agronomy, ISU.

“The proposal received from Dr. Mallarino’s research group was excellent and faced intense competition from a great set of submissions,” explained Dr. Paul Fixen, IPNI Senior Vice President and Director of Research. “The Potassium Fellowship Program is a long-term commitment by the fertilizer industry to establish research programs that will attract top students and additional funding for production-oriented aspects of K research; build human resources needed by the industry that are strong scientifically, knowledgeable about K as a plant nutrient, and understand how farms and the fertilizer industry function; and advance the science of K use in agriculture.”

The Potassium Fellowship is part of the Phosphorus and Potassium Graduate Fellowship programs that have been established by leaders in the fertilizer manufacturing industry to help identify and fill the need for additional P and K research.

Individual fellowships are for a maximum of $70,000 per year for a maximum of four years. The fellowship program is supported by voluntary contributions from fertilizer manufacturers servicing the needs of the North American Corn Belt and Great Plains. Primary program donors are: Agrium Inc., Intrepid Potash Inc., The Mosaic Company, and PotashCorp. Simplot is a secondary donor.

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